

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Part 2: Chosen as Sons & Daughters

INTRODUCTION

In every other religion in the world, God exercises mercy at the expense of judgement, except for Christianity – where God is perfect in his justice and in his love. How? Because of what happens in the Christmas story – when Jesus came into the world to be the ultimate sacrifice to make the kind of relationship with God that He wants with us possible.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. If you're honest, do you think you get your capacity to love from God? If so, do you notice a correlation between your relationship with God and how you love others? If not, from where do you think your capacity for love comes?
2. What does it mean to you to be a son or daughter of God? How does this identity impact how you live your life?
3. Is it easy or difficult to address God as "Abba?" Why or why not? What would it look like for you to consistently develop an "Abba-type" relationship with God?
4. How does fear tend to creep in with regards to your relationship with God? How can you trade that fear for the hope we have through the Christmas story?

THIS WEEK

Check out "No Longer Slaves" by Bethel Music on iTunes or Spotify and listen to it several times over the coming week. Ask God to help you identify where fear still remains in your relationship with Him and practice receiving His great mercy and love into your life.

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those under the law, that we might receive **adoption to sonship**. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, '**Abba**, Father.' So you are **no longer a slave**, but God's **child**; and since you are his child, God has made you also **an heir**."

Galatians 4:4-7, NIV